recommendations. According to the information given by Department of Expenditure, the scale of Rs. 10,650-15,200 has not been allowed in any case and as such its existence as a separate pay scale or as a part of any standard pay scale does not arise.

(c) The details of the Assured Career Progression Scheme introduced for the Central Government civilian employees are contained in Department of Personnel and Training Office Memorandum No.35034/1/97-Estt.(D) dated August 9,1999.

Status of LS and RS Secretariat Employees

2974. SHRIKAMAL AKHTAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in various competitive examinations conducted by Staff Selection Commission, the employees of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats are not provided with the certain relaxation due to Government employees;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to take them into the list of Government employees to extend them various relaxation as given to Government employees; and

{c} whether there is also a fact that many employees of these Secretariats have been deprived of taking the examination in recently conducted Combined Matric Level (Prel.) Examination by SSC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Since there is no provision for treating employees of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats as Central Government civilian employees, such employees are not given benefit of age relaxation admissible to Government employees. Hence, *the question* of depriving the employees of Lok Sabha and Hafya Sabha Secretariats from taking any examination by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) does not arise.

Backlog vacancies of SCs and STs

2975. SBFtf PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: WiRthe PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the status of National Common Minimum Programme, in particular concerning "all reservation quotas, including those relating to promotions to be fulfilled in a time-bound manner"; and

(b) whether the Ministry has obtained and examined details from various Ministries with reference to filling up backlog vacancies of SCs and STs as directed by Hon'ble Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRISURESH PACHOURI): (a) In pursuance of the National Common Minimum Programme the Government has launched a Special Recruitment Drive from August, 2004 to fill up the backlog reserved vacancies of SCs and STs in a time bound manner, both in direct recruitment and promotion quotas.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Report of World Bank

2976. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has in its report on Reforming Public Services in India, stresed upon the need for greater pofiiical consensus on social development programmes and the empowerment of civil services, through stability of tenure and greater managerial tenures; and

(b) if so, the recommendations made in the report and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) The World Bank Report titled "Reforming Public Services in India — Drawing Lessons from Success" is based on a study of certain major reform initiatives in service delivery undertaken by various States. The Report has, *inter alia,* concluded that almost all the successful cases studied involved initiatives by officers who remained in their posts for atleast three years and that the programmes that enjoyed consensus across political parties were better positioned to ward off rent-seeking behaviour by influential groups.

The governmental programmes are initially prepared by the nodal M inistries as per the subjects allotted to them in the Allocation of Business Rules, after taking into account the needs of the intended beneficiaries.